Proposal for legislation on agricultural debt relief

2996. SHRI KAHNU CHARAN LENKA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to frame a uniform policy for extending loans to farmers in the country and also bring about a legislation on agricultural debt relief;

(b) whether the banks are charging compound interest on agricultural loans;

(c) whether any assessment has been made about the quantum of agricultural loans recovered from farmers in Orissa so far; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) The instructions issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to the banks from time to time for extending loans to farmers are uniform for the entire country. A proposal to set up a National Agricultural Credit Relief Fund is under examination.

(b) According to existing instructions of RBI, interest on current dues is not compounded. When crop loans or instalments under term loans become overdue, banks have been permitted to add interest outstanding to the principal and compound interest. However, the total interest debited to an account should not exceed the principal amount in respect of short-term loans to small and marginal farmers.

(c) and (d). RBI has reported that data are collected about the recovery of direct agricultural advances as at the end of June every year on an all-India basis, including Orissa.

The recovery of direct agricultural advances as at the end of June 1987 (latest available) in respect of scheduled commercial banks for the State of Orissa is as under :—

Demand (Rs. in crores)	Recovery (Rs. in crores)	Percentage of recovery to demand
104.43	55.13	52.79

RBI financial assistance to Andhra Pradesh for Road Development and Bridge Construction Corporation

2997. SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government approached the Reserve Bank of India for financial assistance and other formalities for their Roads Development and Bridge Construction Corporation; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what action has been taken by the Reserve Bank of India thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the Government of Andhra Pradesh approached the RBI in December, 1986 for permitting banks to finance Andhra Pradesh Road Development and Bridge Construction Corporation and the State Government was informed in February, 1987 that construction of roads and bridges and other kinds of infrastructural facilities were the legitimate function of the Government as part of their developmental activities and funds therefor should normally come out of their resources. Commercial banks can grant working capital finance to companies/individuals who enter into contract to undertake such construction.

Koyna Dam

2998. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the ground surface of Koyna Dam in Maharashtra

State is weak and is likely to cause earthquake from time to time; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and what steps have been taken by the Central Government to strengthen the ground surface of the Dam ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB) : (a) and (b) Presumably the Hon'ble Member refers to the foundation of Koyna Dam. The foundation of Koyna Dam rests on massive basalt rock and is not weak. It has also been grouted. Earth tremors are experienced presumably due to structural adjustments in the deep underground layers in that area.

Foreign Missionaries in India

2999. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of foreign missionaries in India as on 1st January, 1989;

(b) the details relating to their nationality and religious denominations as well as the period of continuous stay in India; and

(c) the details of those missionaries who entered and left India during 1988?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Promises made by the Prime Minister regarding electoral reforms

3000. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister made promises about electoral reforms during 1984-85 while campaigning for the last general elections to the Lok Sabha; and

(b) if so, what are the details of electoral reforms which have been carried out so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE *(SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ)*: (a) and (b) No record of promises made in election campaigns or election speeches are maintained in this Department.

It may, however, be mentioned that the Address by the President to the Parliament on 17-1-1985, *i.e.* immediately after the formation of the Government following the General Elections held in 1984, contains a policy statement that Government are committed to a clean public life and they intend to initiate wide ranging discussions on electoral reforms with political parties and would welcome their cooperation. It was also mentioned in that statement that in consonance with the objective of a healthy political system, Government intend to bring forward in that Session of Parliament an Anti-Defection Bill.

It is a matter of record that in 1985 itself two important legislative proposals, namely, the Constitution (Fifty-Second Amendment) Act, 1985 to deal with the evil of political defections and the Companies (Amendment) Act, 1985 to permit, subject to certain conditions, the donations by Companies to political parties, had been enacted.

Other important electoral reforms which have been statutorily given effect to, thereafter are the following :—

(i) prevention of the misuse of religious institutions for politcal and other